BAKEMONOGATARI

12

OH!GREAT

ORIGINAL STORY:

NISIOISIN

ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESIGN: VOFAN

BAKEMONOGATARI XII

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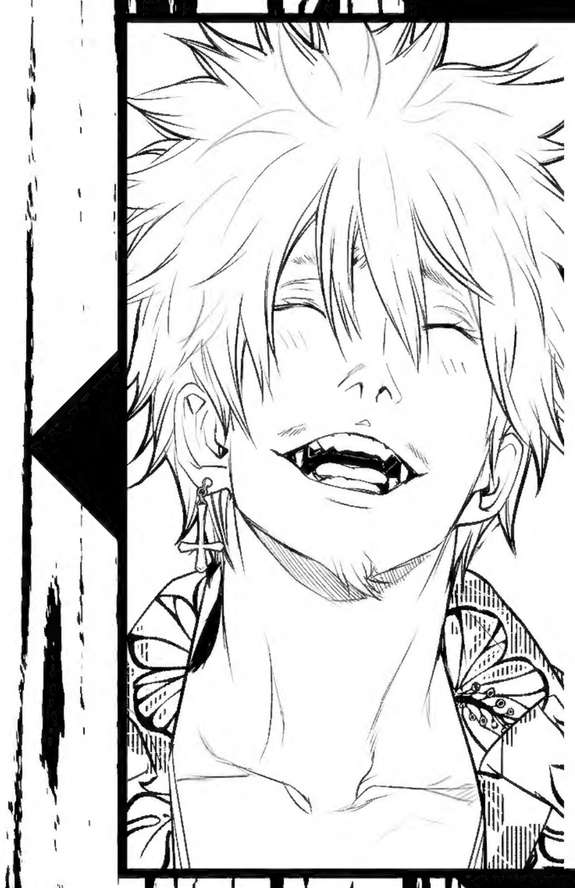
12

MAIN CHARACTERS

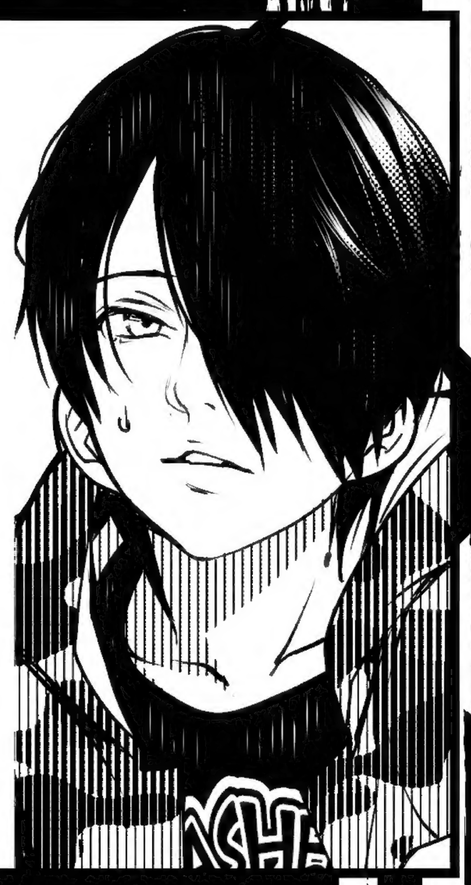
Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's friend who goes to the same school as him, and an honor student that few honors could sufficiently describe. She goes out of her way to save Koyomi, even putting herself at risk in the process.



Mèmè Oshino

A self-described expert on aberrations who suddenly appeared before Koyomi one day. He now acts as a go-between for Koyomi and the hunters.



Koyomi Araragi

A boy who became Kiss-Shot's thrall after saving her. To regain his humanity, he must now fight three vampire hunters.

Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade

A vampire powerful enough to be called the "king of aberrations" who Koyomi saved from near-certain death. She has regained a tiny bit of her powers.

Guillotine Cutter

A vampire hunter who, despite being human, took both of Kiss-Shot's legs from her. A user of strange tools and techniques.

During spring break, Koyomi Araragi saved the heavily wounded vampire Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade. He was fully prepared to die for her but instead finds that he has become her vampiric thrall. To become human again, he must now fight three hunters who are after Kiss-Shot. Koyomi narrowly defeated the second of the three, the half-vampire Episode, but he nearly lost Hanekawa in the process.

EXTINGUISHER

DO NOT ENTER

Chapter 0

Koyomi Vamp

BOOK_DESIGN VEIA

Hane-
kawa?

Wai...

But...

I know what you're thinking. "Huh? No freaking way. This is just going to be one of those 'it was all a dream' things, right?"

Though, in a sense, this scene *is* like something out of a dream...

This is reality—make no mistake about it.

It's 6 AM on April 5th.

Let me go back and explain it all in order.

It seems I've gotten so flustered that I skipped ahead of things.

You beat me.

I wasn't in a place to be careful, if I'm being honest. Forgive me.

Hey, don't give me that look.

I apologize for hitting your woman.

HUH!

EH?!

YOU'D BETTER NOT THINK YOU CAN BEAT SOMEONE LIKE GUILLOTINE CUTTER WITH A CHEAP PARTY TRICK LIKE THAT!

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN ACT ALL COOL JUST 'CAUSE YOU BEAT ME ONE MEASLY LITTLE TIME?

What? She's not your woman?

...Just a friend?

Huh... Uh-huh... Hmm...

...

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

HAHAAA! JUST WAIT, YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE GONNA BE MINCEMEAT! ♪

I MAY BE PRETTY CRAZY, BUT HE'S CRAZY ON A WHOLE OTHER LEVEL! ♡

Maybe it was just me,

but as he left, Episode seemed oddly happy.

...

AH.

That night—
or early morning
for a regular human.

HOORAY

HOORAY

HIP

HIP

UNITE!

CHOMP

As someone who'd been acting as an extension of her—her limb, if you will—seeing that made me happy as well.

Kiss-Shot seemed happy, too.

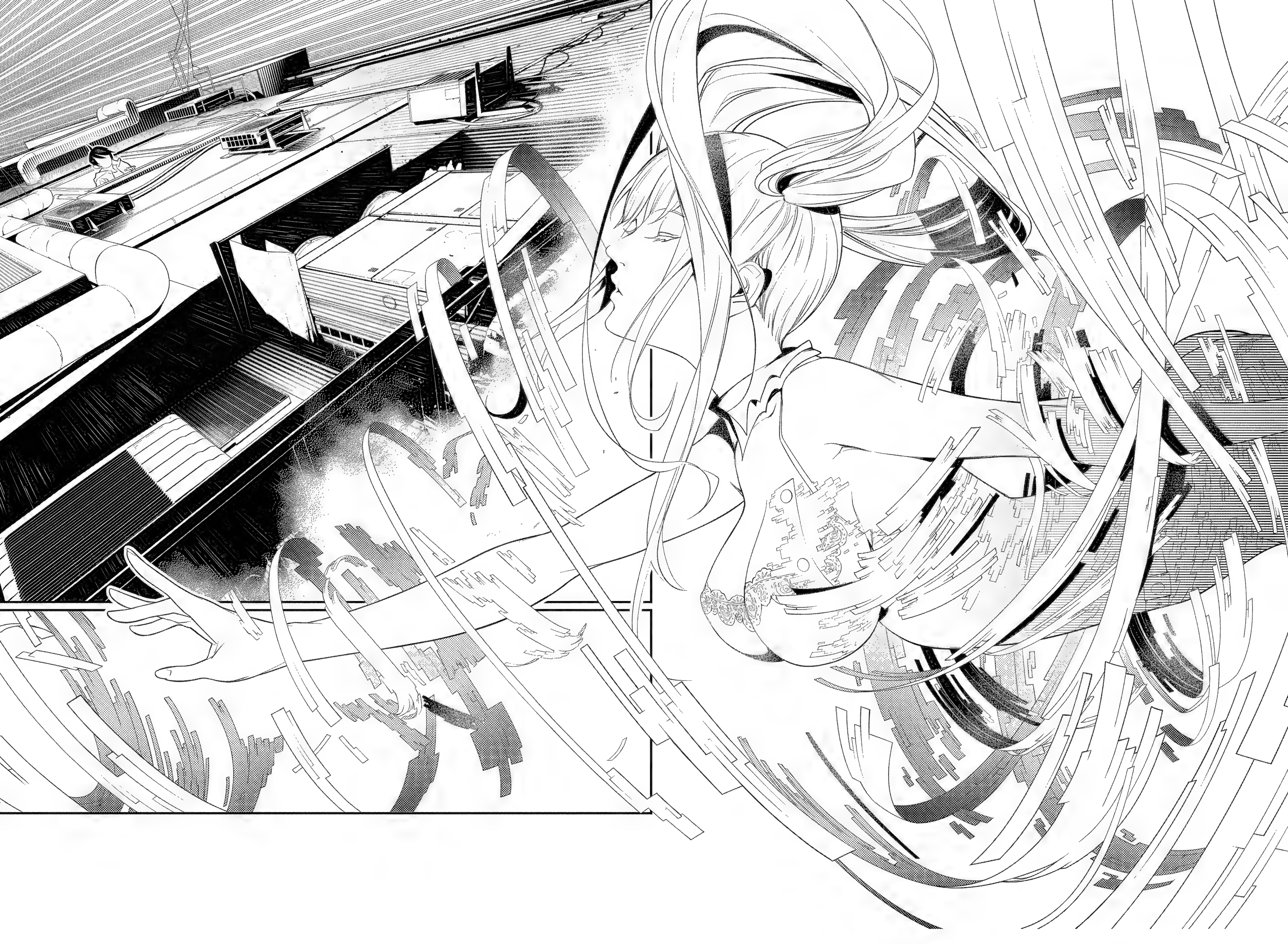
BA-KRAK

THP

THP

THP

THP



ZAKK

Hey, Kiss-Shot.

But I couldn't just sit back and enjoy this.

HUP!

JIGGLE

Ahhh

She's huge...!

She—

From puberty to the end of adolescence. It's a period when humans also experience the most changes to their physical appear-ance—

From 12 to 17...

JIGGLE

Maybe around 17 years old?

Never again.

I'm sure... there would be some use to it.

I'll listen properly, for my part.

Your explanations tend to be too vague.

Can you give me some clear info on Guillotine Cutter?

GLOOMY

GUILLOTINE CUTTER

So thou sayest, but what practical use would there be in my explaining everything from α to ζ?

I'm not messing up the way I did in my fight with Episode.

GLOOMY

GUILLOTINE

wasn't omega supposed to be the last letter, not zeta?

And by the way,

Guillotine Cutter...

...is the archbishop of a religion with little history.

ROLL

ゴゴゴ

...

Do you understand me?

And when I say this— I do not mean they do not recognize us.

His faith denies the existence of aberrations.

So she means— they refuse to allow aberrations to exist.

In other words, Kiss-Shot's very existence— and mine as well...

Within his church, Guillotine Cutter has tasked himself with eradicating aberrations, which supposedly do not exist at all.

In other words, in addition to being the archbishop, Guillotine Cutter doubles as their captain of special operations.

...Is he just that good at his job?

Still, an archbishop at his young age?

...he is the Shadow Team Leader of the Shadow Let's Go Black Squad for the Dark Group of Secret Special Operations.

As they might put it in this land...

That's way too literal a translation.

I see.

I leave it in thy hands.

Do as thou seest fit.

So, how should I fight him?

Are vampires just bad at foreign languages?

First Dramaturgy's business card, now this...

Glow Balls Every Vampire Annihilating Organization

Headhunter

Dramaturgy

He's human, and yet Dramaturgy and Episode recognized him as their superior, plus he took both of Kiss-Shot's legs from her.

but *that's exactly why he's so dangerous.*

So apparently, Guillotine Cutter is just a *plain human—*

This guy's faiths and beliefs or what-ever...

...they seem like they're gonna be a real pain...

Wait, servant.

?!

Before thou goest—art thou not forgetting something—of great import?

No?

Don't thou darest get carried away over the retrieval of a mere arm or two.

PAT

PAT

SNOOORE

PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT

PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT

Hah !

Haah !

Haah !

Haah ...!

...someplace you're not supposed to touch...?

W-Were heads always like...this...? Did they always feel like...

...Oh my god.

Whoa!

So she really does get bigger.

Huh...! It's like she's a totally different person.

She's so beautiful now.

Hane-kawa. Good morn-ing.

...

Good morning, Araragi.

What do you mean?

Huh?

Hmm?

NAG
NO GOOD. NO FUTURE.

Traitor.

...I thought I'd get the chance to see her in street clothes, but...

...

Considering just how badly her school uniform got torn up...

Hane-kawa.

How's the wound on your stomach?

It's fine.

—Or, well, there's nothing left of it.

Ah.

Here, show me.

Hane-kawa...

I need to talk to you about something.

What do you mean, "here"?

What's this hand doing?

Hm? ...She scolded me.

I was being serious, though...

ZAKK

Hane-kawa.

And a Diet Coke for me, if you were wonder-ing—

Oh, right. I brought you a Coke.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

Listen.

You should stop coming here.

...

WARNING

I want you to stop coming here.

Please, Hane-kawa.

...

Hmm ...

Well. I thought you might say that.

Please don't take this the wrong way—

It's not like last time.

I was only after your fortune.

I do still want to avoid getting you mixed up in this, but— this time is different.

... How's it differ-ent?

Yes-ter-day.

...

SBLORCH

When Episode's cross took a chunk out of your side...

I lost my-self...

My body's immortal —

but I thought I was going to die.

I could feel the blood ...

...rising to my head.

I thought I was going to die.

...as if it were my own.

Your wound hurt...

...my spirit would have broken long ago.

... intensity as a human, right?

I talked to you about my...

Hanekawa had been meeting me every day since the start of April.

But I'm pretty sure that if she hadn't...

I'm...

It wasn't just about the previous night.

I could barely express just how much Hanekawa's existence had kept me going.

Hane-kawa ...

I...

That's why.

...

GRMP

That was exactly why...

...I had to tell her.

I'm not so desperate to become human again...

...that I'd do it at your ex-pense.

But I don't you wonder what you're doing?

mean —

...I don't feel like you're treating me in that way, though?

...

Doesn't that make you wonder what you're doing?

...and nearly dying in the pro-cess?

Wast-ing your spring break for my sake,

at such an import-ant time in your life...

but if anything, you were the one who saved me, right?

I've forgotten what happened then,

SWOOSH SWOOSH

ぶん ぶん

Not at all !!

N...

If we had switched places yesterday —

I can't imagine myself acting like you did then.

...

I just... can't see it that way.

But you—

you did that.

...in the way of someone as dangerous as Episode—

I'm not confident that I'd put my not-even-immortal body...

You...

...
scare
me.

I searched every-where for the right words...

...and I did my best to pick them, but I couldn't.

Hon-estly, you creep me out.

...for a friend you only got to know the other day.

I can't understand why you would go this far...

...

...saint.

It's like you're some sort of...

But your self-sacrifice is too heavy a burden for me...

I'm not big enough —

to bear that.

When I think about you being wounded for my sake,

it's not about whether you'll get better or not...

It's just scary ...!

Just the thought is enough to make me freeze up.

I can't fight Guillotine Cutter...

...like this.

...self-sacri-fice.

It isn't

Mmm...

Haah...

I'm not that good of a person.

If you came to know the real me, Araragi, I bet you'd feel disillu-sioned.

KREAK

...what is it then?

Well...

...it isn't self-sacrifice.

So...

...I'm just doing what-ever I feel like doing...

And I'm not that strong of a person, either.

Self-satisfaction.

Enough to creep you out, actually.

I'm sneaky...

...and I think I'm tough.

There isn't a single reason for you to feel bad, really.

I'm no saint or holy mother.

I doubt there are many people out there as self-absorbed as me.

I'm just doing whatever I feel like doing, whether or not you find that convenient.

I don't know what to do if your image of me is that fantas-tic...

...

...

Well ...

But.

It does look like there's nothing left for me to do.

NG
NO GOOD. NO FUTURE.

The Quintuplet Titans 5
Suzu Yam

You already have a pretty nice collection of school-based combat manga.

Maybe I'm done being your shopper.

...No.

Wait for me.

There is.

At school— once the new year starts.

Wait for me there.

I real-ized...

...waiting for someone who might never show up.

It wasn't like I had no idea how much pain and anxiety came with...

...I was asking for a lot.

But I wanted Hanekawa to wait for me.

...to chatting with you again.

I'm looking forward with all my heart...

Bi-
bi-
beep.

Bi-
bi-
beep.

Bi-
bi-
beep.

Whoops.

What kind of sound is that?

...Hm?

The sound of my heart throb-bing.

WHAT? GIRLS COME WITH A SOUND EFFECT FOR THAT, TOO?!

And it sounds like an alarm clock!

Phew, that was a close one.

So that's the line you use to sweet-talk girls?

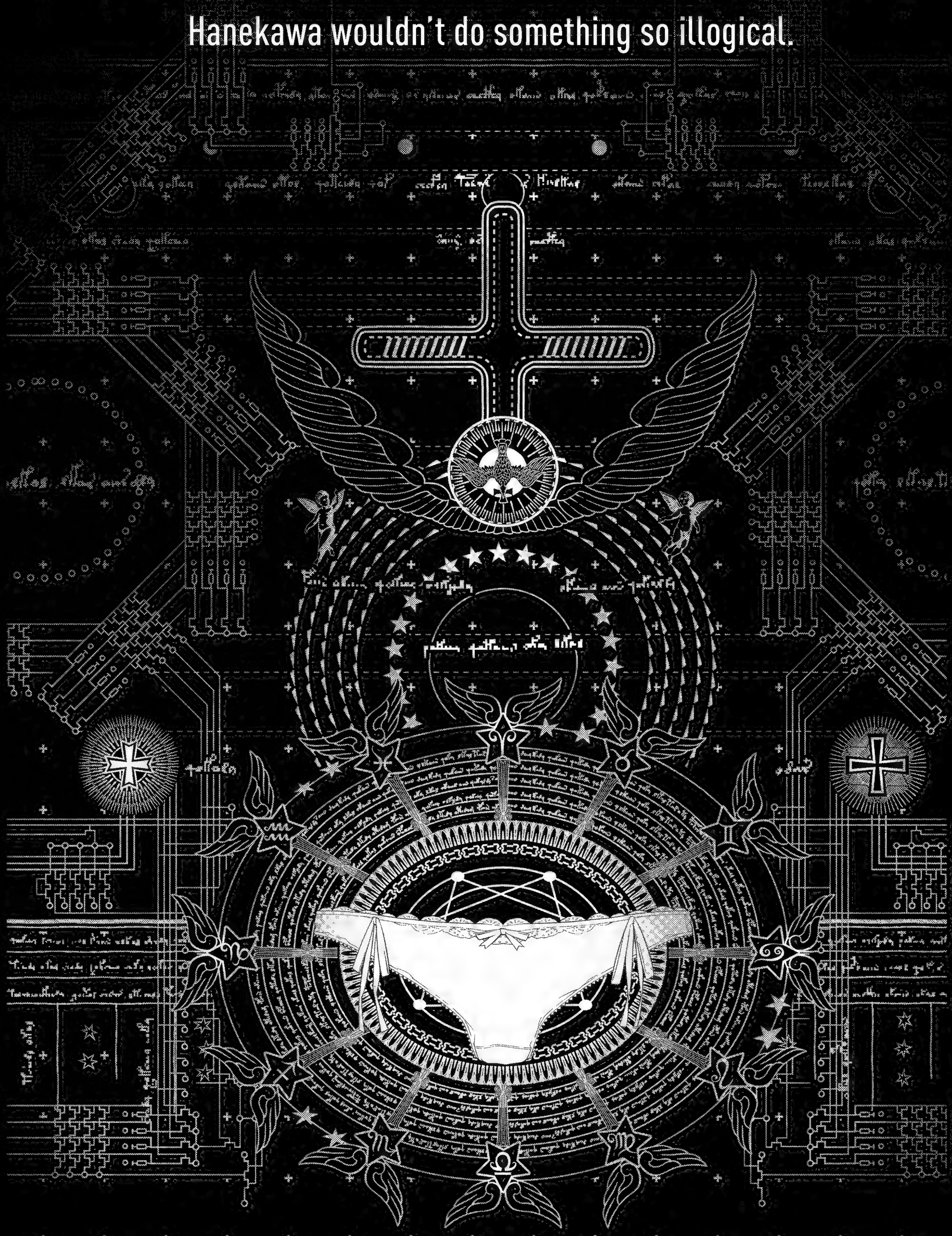
WHAT? NO! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

...

Mmh.

KTT

After giving her body an exaggerated stretch and
putting on a determined look, she thrust both of her hands
underneath the hem of her school uniform's pleated skirt.
I thought she was going to pull up her skirt again, but no,
Hanekawa wouldn't do something so illogical.



Prime-grade illogic.

Instead, she took off her panties.

WUH...!

Mmh...

Kay.

The Quintuplet Titans 5

Suzu Yam

HA...

HANE-KAWA ...?!!

...

...

Like just before the climactic fight in a super-powered school action series, if I may...

Um, Araragi ?

SQUEEZE きゅむ

SQUISH きゅっ

"Give it back when we meet next school year."

"I'll let you borrow this."

?!

"Give it back when we meet next school year."

...
...
...
...

I don't wear a necklace, though.

BUT THE ITEM THERE WAS A NECKLACE!

YES, THERE WAS A SCENE LIKE THAT IN ONE OF THE MANGA YOU BOUGHT ME!

H—

HOLD ON, HOLD ON, HOLD ON!!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

FIDGET

FIDGET

And anyway, Araragi.

You like panties, don't you?

Do you even need to ask?!

...would call into question Koyomi Araragi's very identity, so I'm not denying it, okay?!

I won't deny it!!

Denying it...

But!

But still!

Um...

Ah...

A Koyomi Araragi who can't say no!

FWOOF

Here.

?!!

まカッ

WHFF

FWUUUUH!!

FWOOOOF

あわわわ

HURK!

GAH!

KRAKL

TWITCH

Huh?

...What ?!

Sorry... I— can't give it back.

Hane- ...kawa ...!

Oh... But if you don't want it...

I CER-TAINLY DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THAT!!

I'm passing this pair down from generation to generation as the Araragi family heirloom.

—I mean I'm never giving it back.

These panties have been parted from your flesh for eternity—

HOW DARE YOU!!

This...

...is what I said.

And then I tried my best to strike a brave pose.

I will return this favor.

I won't give your panties back— but in exchange...

SPROING

SPROING

Hey...

Don't stretch them out like that...

...

As of today, it will be my life's mission to repay you.

Whenever you need me—when that time comes... I promise to be there.

So, now I'll have to go home panty-less, in a skirt as low-security as this one?

Whatever, just give them back when we meet.

B'aww...

And wait...

Compared to that, Araragi—

beating this Guillotine Cutter person can't be that hard, right?

EXTINGUISHER

I would overcome if I kept that in mind.

I'd win handily.

No matter how grueling the battle—

Point taken.

Best of luck.

Hane-kawa.

WATCH↓ YOUR↓ HEAD↓

Best of luck.

THOK

4
3

If I *had* been in Araragi's place—what would I have done?

Hm.

...me think.

It made ...

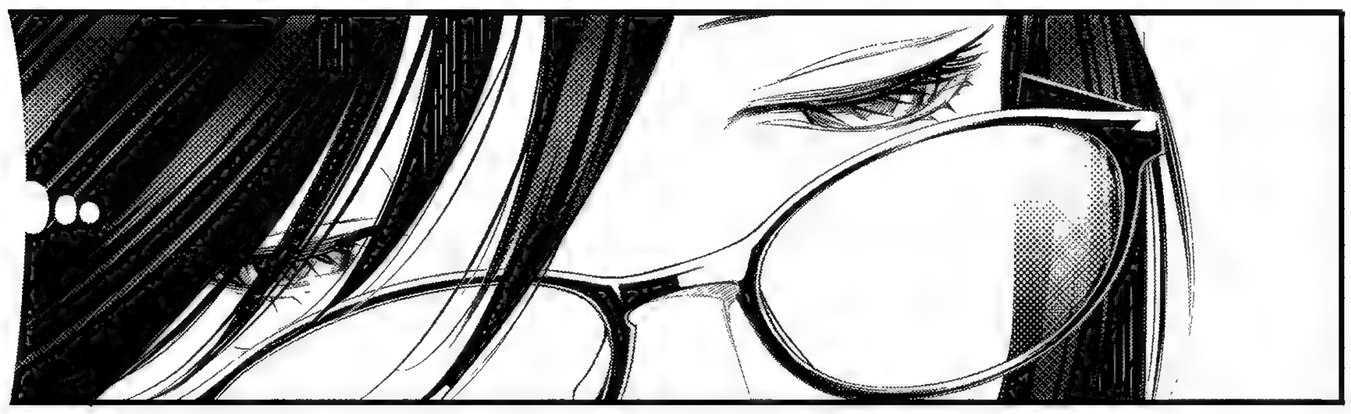
6

It's the kind of question that I can't see ending...

...in a very pleas-ant way.

ATS 電源投入

Hmm... Perhaps I'd be like, "It's too bad, but this is just the way of the world."



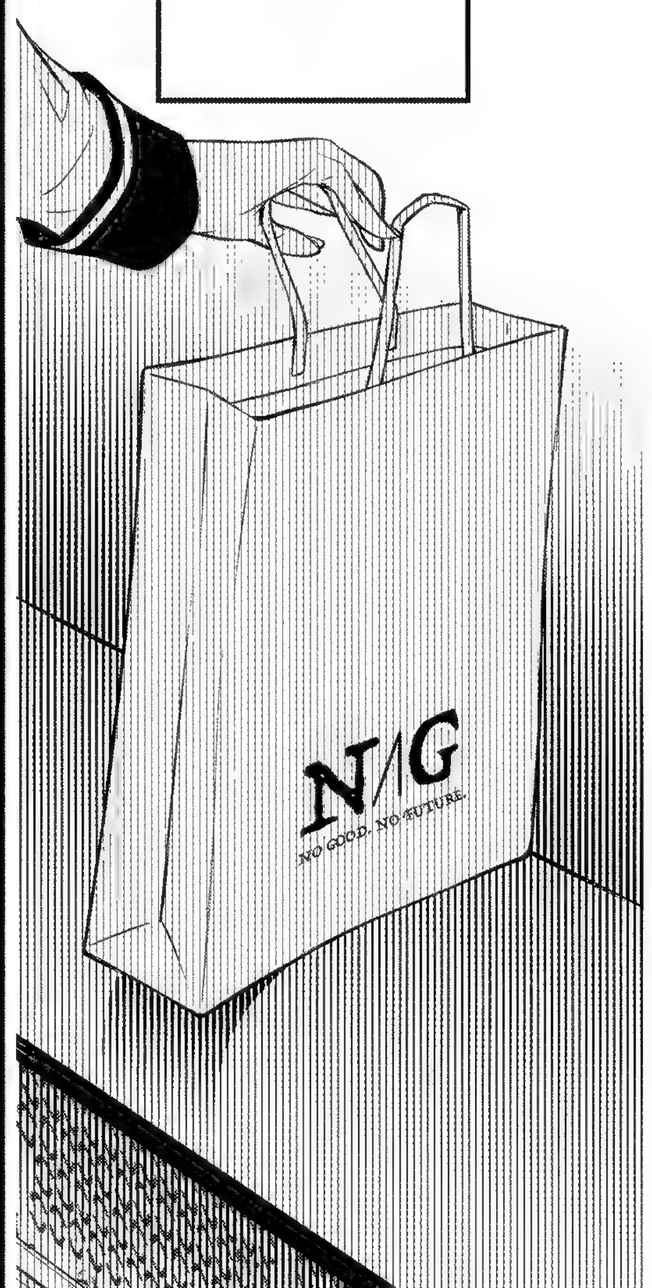
Would I just give up like that?

Who knows, maybe I would've abandoned her without hesitation.

Maybe I would've taken the stress from it and the awful taste it left in my mouth and tossed it all away somewhere—

without even considering what could happen if a stray cat ate some litter like that.

Watch her die



Ara-
ragi...

NO GOOD. F

At the very least,

I doubt I'd take a crying and screaming vampire on the verge of death...

...and allow her to survive out of the simple kindness of my heart.

I won-
der...

...what's going to happen to you from here on out...

Even if he returns to the same location,

won't the sight he sees there be completely different by then?

Once Araragi returns to being human again,

will we really be able to say he has *returned to the way he was*?

It's not like...

...he's even done anything wrong...

He hasn't committed any crime here, and yet—

he's the only one being punished.

He just couldn't give up on her—

He couldn't aban-don her, that's all.

KREAK

I'll figure out a way.

I will.

I find myself just voicing the words.

They don't have a sense of resolve behind them.

Oh. I know what I'll do.

Wait...

...for me.

A place he can return to.

I'll make a place for Araragi.

But something had already happened to me.

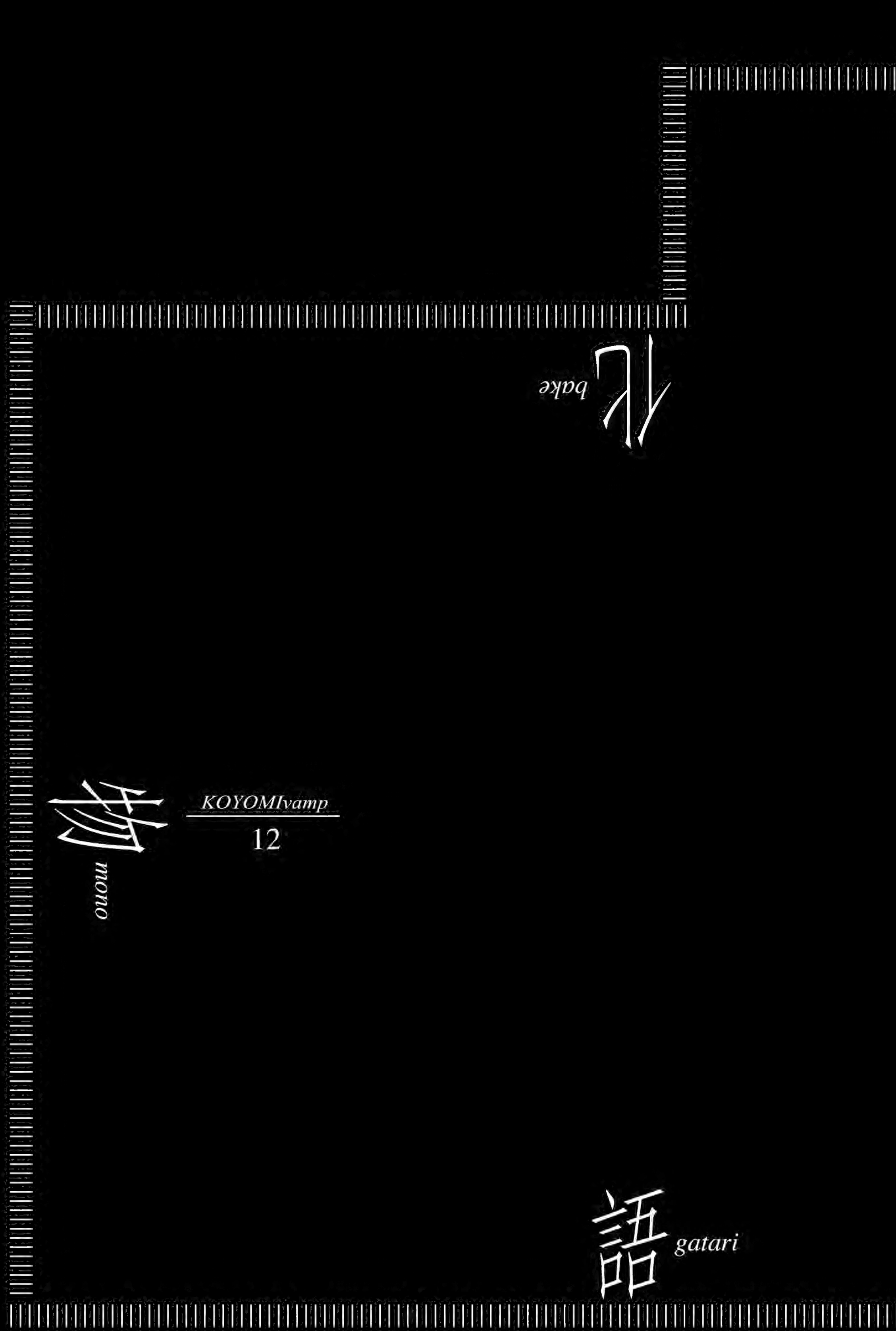
I still didn't know it at the time.

And ...

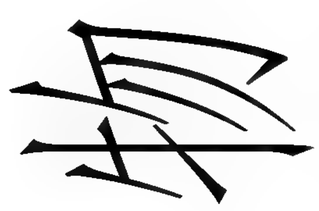
I'd already fallen in love.

KREAK

ギィィ・・・


bake
KOYOMIvamp
12
mono
gatari

gatari


mono

bake

Araragi
—

my
bad.

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

I
messed
up.

GRRSH

TH-THNK
TH-THNK
TH-THNK
TH-THNK
DC-93 2

SCURRY

SCURRY

SCURRY

SCURRY

DO NOT ENTER

—No, I'm entirely to blame here.

Pardon our mess.
DANGER
No unauthorized personnel allowed.

Sorry.

Hane-kawa was...

Last night,

I promised to take on Missy Class President's case for three million yen.

...kid... napped ...?!

but he com-pletely out-smarted me.

Normally, humans who earn their keep in this world don't want to involve regular people...

He wouldn't know this place... right?

But... how'd he get Hanekawa ?

B—

KREAK

キィィ……

But we're dealing with someone pretty powerful here.

The barrier is still effective even after you leave this place.

I'd totally misjudged the opponent's capabilities and powers.

The way he went about things *couldn't be any more human.*

In other words,

he used his own two legs to steadily gather information, which he then analyzed until he had a hunch. Once he figured things out, he patiently staked her out...

Oshino said that Guillotine Cutter likely found Hanekawa through what he called "physical" means.

...

The conditions ...

OOZE

What... do I need to do...?

SGRRRRK

KREAK KREAK

I...

The one difference he requested was a change in the time of our battle.

...seemed to be exactly the same as before.

Late night, April 5th.

In other words, tonight.

...but it must be what it means to be a "professional."

It was a rotten way to do it...

What he must want—is to settle things before that.

She'll need to go home—or else it'd cause a commotion.

...just the thought of it was enough to make me freeze up.

...had just told her as much, but...

I...

If anything happened to Hane-kawa—

His plan had basically succeeded already.

First, *the things you read about how heroes act in superpowered school-action manga?*

Forget all of that.

So I'll give you a hint to help you win.

This—is my mistake here.

Also,
forget
about
your
humanity.

SGRRK

WHOOSH

Agh!

THWAK

PLATTER

PLATTER

PLATTER

WHOOSH

Ah!

THWAP

SWOOP

...
Mmh.

Haah...

It's just... the sight alone is painful to watch.

Oh.

I'm sorry.

It interferes with my work.

Could you please not make such strange noises from behind me?

THWAP

SWOOP

...Hard to say.

What meaning does it hold?

That scourge... It's known as a penitentia, right?

God has but one teaching. And there is but one path to God.

I harbor no doubts.

I am merely doing what God instructs, as told by letters from on high.

...I find it hard to believe that your God ordered you to do this to me.

I— don't really under-stand.

But at the very least ...

KSHNK

When I whip myself, only I feel pain.

It is man's role to cast away the darkness that blocks this path and gives chase as we walk it.

God simply shows us the path toward the light.

It does not pain God.

I will show no mercy to those who insult God.

Whether I wound my body or wound my pride—it is only my heart that is wounded in the process.

Get any closer and I'll bite my tongue.

Apparently, biting your tongue won't actually kill you—but if you were to wound a hostage...

...their value and power to you as a weapon will be diminished, no?

You seem to underestimate yourself.

If that is enough to agitate him and lower his abilities in combat, the *effect* will be the same.

Even in the worst case, I imagine he'll agree to the bargain so long as just one of your fingers is left.

HURK

TWITCH

—Still, I cannot ignore the risk involved in *cleaning up after* your body.

Most of all, I *do not* have the time for that kind of task at the moment.

...!

Those are...

Miss Heart-Under-Blade's ...

...legs ...?!

I must finish this by tonight.

I mean, the kind of *villain who'd use a kidnapped girl as his trump card*— is the most stereotypical kind of throwaway bad guy—someone who'd get taken out in the blink of an eye.

If anything— it might have been him I underestimated.

...was mis-taken.

SHIVER

I...

WRIGGL

WRIGGL

ZHLR

He doesn't see me as a weapon at all...!!

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

SLITHER

He's after something completely different in reality.

But— I was wrong.

This— *is a ploy.*

SLITHER

SLITHER

SLITHER

I'm just ...

...a decoy !!

SHHHH...

But who can claim to have a weapon made from the body of the king of aberrations, Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade?

Cursed artifacts made using aberrations and the like are commonplace, yes...

I shall name them "Heart und Drill."

ZAKK

BAKEMONOGATARI

Here he is.

THOOOSH

Ha

ne

ka

waa

!

...Ahhr-rnn...

Haah...

Ah...

If you are unable to turn your body to mist—you must truly be a novice.

Ah, did you run over here?

!!

But...I need to tell you something right now!!

I'm just a decoy.

I'm sorry, Araragi! I know I'm just holding you back here...!

BLIPP

WHOOMP

I agree, but do you really need to bother saying it out loud like that?

What?!

Oh... Yeah.

In all kinds of ways.

...

This has to be criminal.

Think about prime numbers.

Prime numbers...

...

Ah!

Mmmh!

Mmh!

SGRRK

HAAH

Mmrh mmrrh— Mmh! Urrn... Ah... Aahhnn... Nngh!

SGRRK

HAAH

Aanh!

Aanh!

SWSH

SWSH

Look! Look over here!

This is no time to be reviewing your math homework!!

What?! ...Hey, why are you closing your eyes?

— Wait.

Araragi, what he's trying to do is to—

Kyr-rgh!

THKK.

SQUEEZE

I'd like to ask you to refrain from speaking.

Hmmm... I never knew how inconvenient it is to simply have your ability to talk taken away.

Oh, that's it!

If I used Morse code—

ok

ay

tr

ap

This

is

a

BLINK

BLINK

BLINK

BLINK

Hm?

It's not getting across? Maybe the message being in English was too hard for him?

HEY! STOP THIS, RIGHT NOW!!

SHE—

SHE'S CONVULS-ING...?!

He'll have to understand if I draw out big letters using my legs.

AAAAAA

T-h-i-s-i-s-a-t-r-a-p.

AAAAAA

My legs aren't bound...

!!

That's it.

Okay ...

Look, Araragi!

BAM

...

not wearing any panties...

...

I'm...

Yeah.

Cut the crap!

Th—

That's right! This is no time for that kind of talk!!

Would you like to try being a hostage against Miss Heart-Under-Blade?

Or perhaps it's different when the hostage is a thrall?

That is not the case when I'm dealing with pure vampires.

Dealing with freshly turned humans is nice and easy because hostages work on you as they should.

You...You wouldn't be able to see, right?

It's dim out, and I'm backlit...

... Probably not.

If *you* plan on doing something to this girl, then *I* will do something to her, too.

I...I'm safe, right?

What're you going to do to Hanekawa?

I'm not going to do anything—not as long as you don't do anything.

Three !!!

I'll do it on three! One, two...

I—

DRIP

Th-The more I think about this, the more embarrassed I'm getting...

Wait.

Ack.

DRIP

Mmf!

...

...!

BSSHT

KSHANK

...why'd you *come alone...?*

If you're this shameless about how you're going to win here...

There's just one thing...

...that I want to ask you.

Right?

You're—an archbishop and the "Shadow Team Leader of the Dark Number Four Group of Secret Special Operations"—

...That's not what I mean.

Unfortunately, Mister Dramaturgy and young Episode have already left for their home countries.

Ah...

If you suspect the other two will join me from the shadows and attack you when your guard is down—you need not worry.

...why are *you the only one here...?*

So...

No... There is, technically speaking, one surviving member...

Not a single member of my unit remains—

Because all the others— have been called to heaven.

A-501

Φάλαρι

OPEN

They are fortunate.

Thus, they were loved by God.

And with much haste, they were allowed to ascend to heaven.

They faithfully held fast to God's rules and died for those rules.

...You seem like way more of a monster than me...

Hear the words of God—and by that, I mean, hear these words of mine.

Allow thyself to be loved by me. Death is the only path for a monster such as thyself. Only then may I grant thee absolution.

God—

which is to say I...

...would like to ask you something.

...and a monkey?

What's the difference between a man...

"The difference is that man can decide the value of his own life for himself."

And for his answer, God sayeth ...

You do not seem to have the mind needed to give an answer of any importance, anyway.

It shall be omitted.

No. There is no need to answer after all.

Amen.

"I surrender. I beg of you, snuff out this lowly existence of mine in exchange for this girl's life."

...If you still have any shred of a human soul within you, raise your hand—and repeat after me.

How he expends his life.

How he lives, how he dies—

Sorry
...

...but I already gave up being human.

Wh
—

I'm not so desper-ate to become human again...

...that I'd do it at Hane-kawa's expense.

There's no point in going back to school alone if Hanekawa's not there.

BA-KRAK

plants, I can do.

But ...

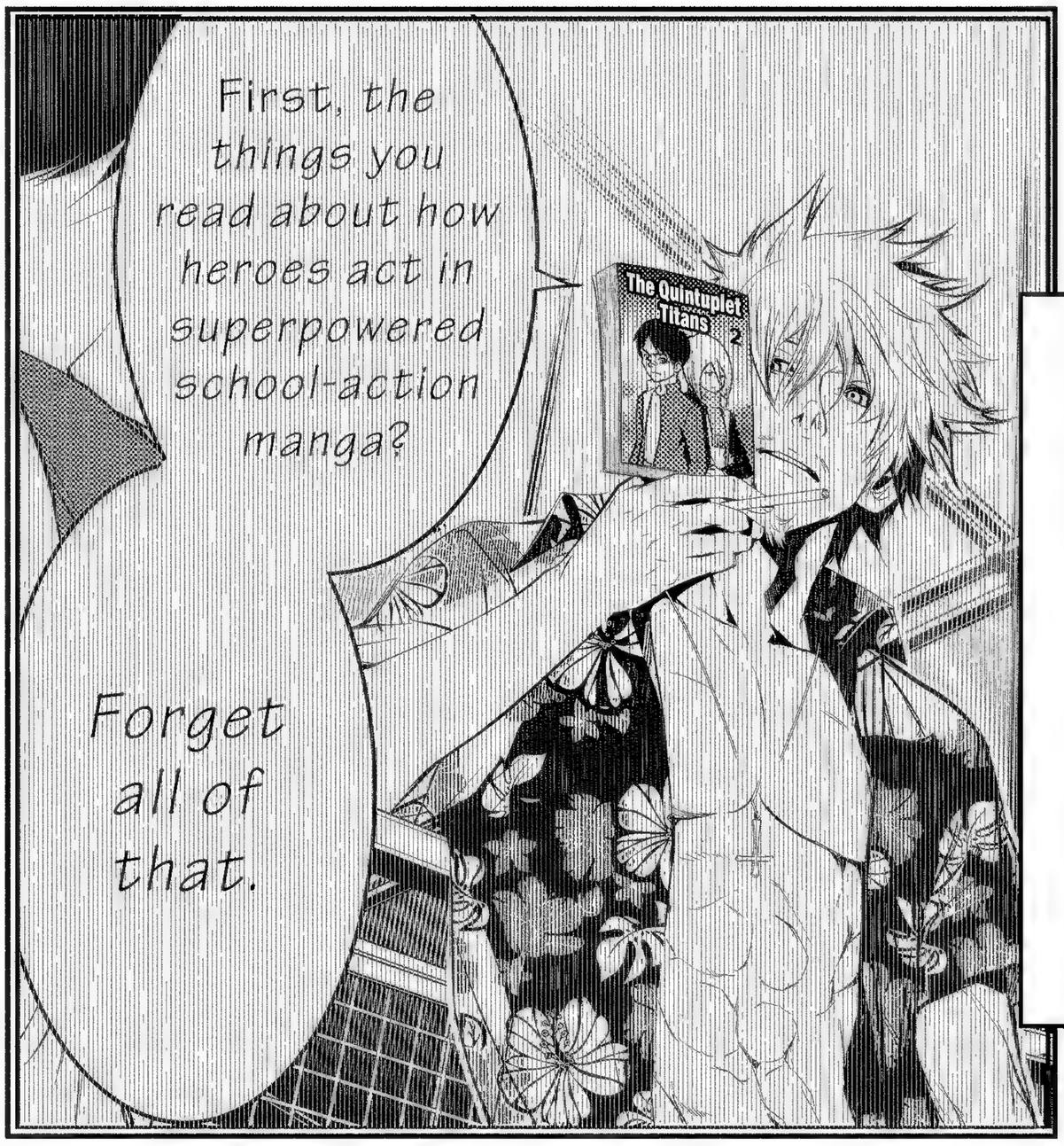
No, I can't turn into mist.

I'd thought every day...

...about how much I wanted to become a plant.

—That's what you said, right, Oshino?

You were right.


First, the things you read about how heroes act in superpowered school-action manga?
Forget all of that.
The Quintuplet Titans 2

It was ex-tremely simple ...

...and conve-nient.

In fact, it's what a bad guy would do.

I don't see a super-powered school-action hero...

...ever doing this.

GWOOSH

I turned both of my arms into plants—and dug them into the ground.

Just as Dramaturgy transformed both of his arms into weapons,

You can pull off a little transformation.

Well—sure.

ll got a lot of rit left in me.

Araragi.

There's an old saying that goes, "the crab makes a hole to suit its shell"—which is to say, "to each his own."

But the hole you dig doesn't need to be human-shaped.

—That's impossible, I kept repeating.

To which Oshino said this.

N—

No ...

Right now—you need to abandon your humanity.

But abandoning Missy Class President isn't...?

...You really are an annoying bastard.

...

Oshino.

True, when I considered that I tried to abandon Hanekawa once before—this was nothing.

SGRRCH

I had only...

...convinced myself that I shouldn't be able to do something like this—all because I desperately wanted to become human again.

But I'd already...

...become a monster...

CURRENT TEMPERATURE
SET
ACTUAL
JAKK

It's going just as my simulations said it would.

For a *vampire-hunting* expert such as *myself*...

...is one of the most basic of all.

A vampire's ability to transform...

...nothing could be easier...

...to handle!!

BA-BA-BWUSH

—Listen, boy. As soon as you learned I'd taken this girl hostage...

...I just know a certain thought must have come into your mind somewhere.

You thought to yourself, "The man known as Guillotine Cutter— is despicable and cowardly."

WHOOSH

"And...

...he's desperate."

It was in that moment that you lost.

...is that I have a bigger target now!!

All this means to me...

You used powers you cannot even properly control.

You approached me with neither contrivance nor strategy.

You think so little of me that you would face me head-on without an ounce of care.

Come.

Heart und Drill.

Do you understand?

It has been...

...five years.

Not you monsters—never.

I doubt you could.

How many months and years I have spent losing every last one of the men and women with whom I shared mind and will?

Do you know the value of this long-awaited moment?

king of the aberrations.

That's how long I have spent following Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade,

Five years.

...

What's the matter?!

Come!!

I...

I'm sorr...

I'm very sorr...

Sorry, sorry, sorry.

I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

TREMBLE

Preek!

Pree.

Pree!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

Forgive me...!

F—

THWAK

HAAAAAH!

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

BOOM

URK!

THWOONK

Hyk
—

ZRRRK

HYAAAAAAAGH

RATTLE
ガタン
RATTLE
ガタン
SNAP
パキン
SQUIRM
RATTLE
RATTLE
ガタガタ
PA-KRAK
SPLAP

THP

Um.

...Yes.

... Hane-kawa?

Are you okay...

C-Could you let go?

A-Ah, Ara-ragi.

?!

And don't touch me.

Don't come close.

B-But, um—please don't come near me.

Th-Thank you...

...the monster I just was.

It's the natural reaction to seeing...

...Yeah, of course she'd say that.

She nearly got killed because of me—

...

BI-BI-BEEP BI-BI-BEEP BI-BI-BEEP

KOFF

Mmh...

This is fine. I can't expose Hanekawa to any more danger.

This—

BI-BI-BI-BEEP

BI-BI-BEEP

BI-BI-BEEP

BI-BI-BI-BEEP

BI-BI-BEEP

12
9
3
6

N-No, Araragi.

It's not like that.

Oh.

I'm well aware of that—

I'm holding tight to those very panties inside my pocket as we speak.

Umm ... ...

It's just, I'm not wearing panties right now, you know?

?!!

Hear the words of God—

and by that, I mean...

...hear these words of mine.

SGRRRCH

...am here to save.

As such ...

I...

...!

You're still...!

FWOH

...I carry no weap-ons.

THWAP

WOOSH

BRAKK

SNAP

SNAP

KREAK

KRAK

RRRIP

BWOOSH

You are the one...

...carrying weapons.

I am merely ...

...using but a bit—

of their power.

THWAP

You will fall to your own weapons!

God is only assisting that process!!

Do you understand?!

They are the powers of you and your kind—do you—

...they are not my weapons.

Do you understand? That knife, that drill...

Don't you dare make a fool of God!!!

Hear the words of God!

And by that, I mean, hear these words of mine!!!

You should flee.

Girl.

But it can at least serve as a shield to save you from that monster.

This body of mine can barely move now.

That mon-ster...

No.

If anything, aren't you the one who put me in dange—

...has saved my life not once, but twice.

...Ara-ragi...

...?

...went and saved you on its own— that is all.

The deeper your involvement with that monster...

...OOOH

BLURK

HAAAH

...the deeper your wounds will grow.

ZAKK

In fact— it's the oppo-site.

You...

...are not saved in the slightest.

KRAK

KRAK

ZAKK

ZAKK

ZAKK

GOD !!

DUTY !!

GOD !!

SALVA-TION!!

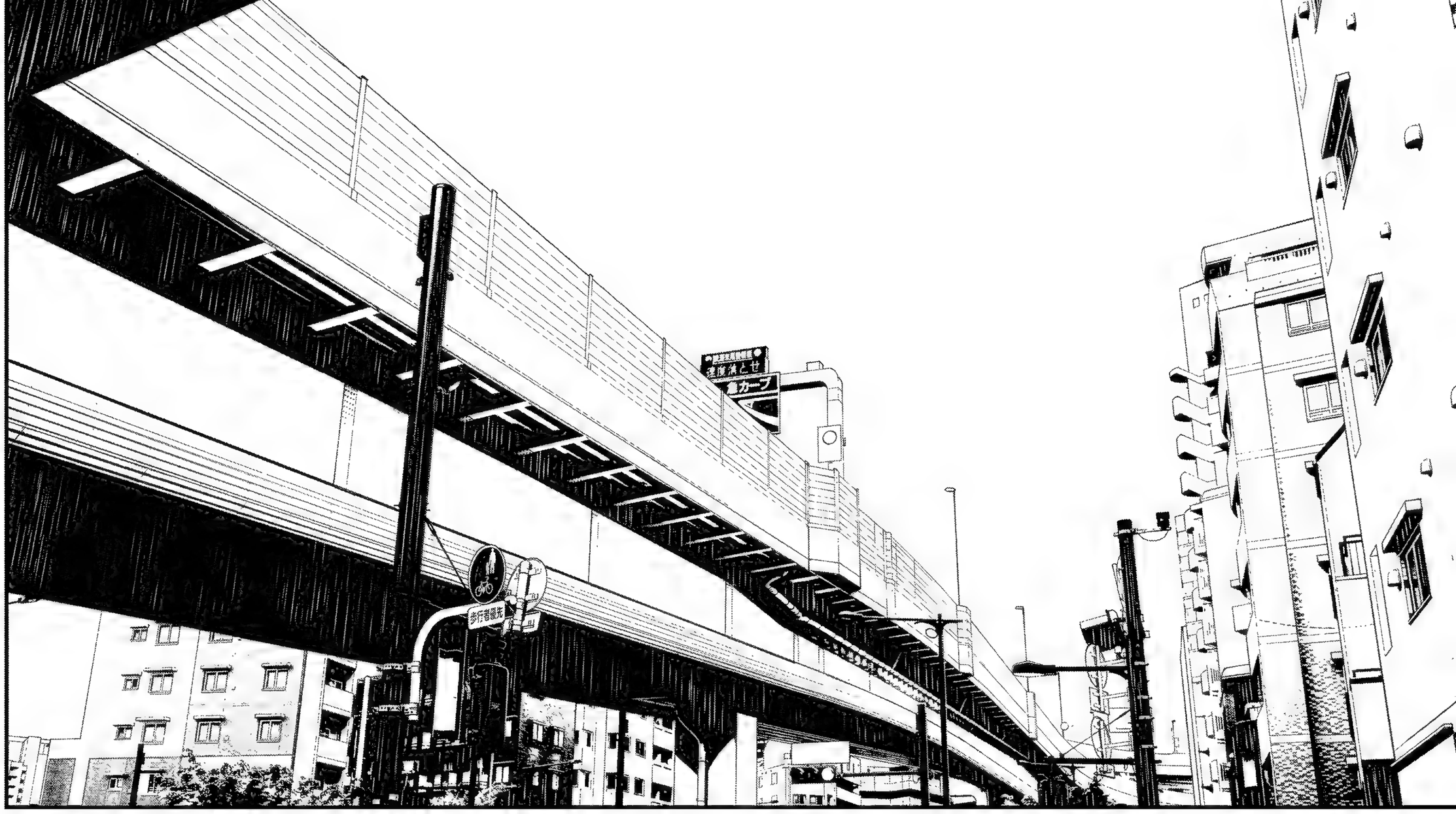
DUTY !!

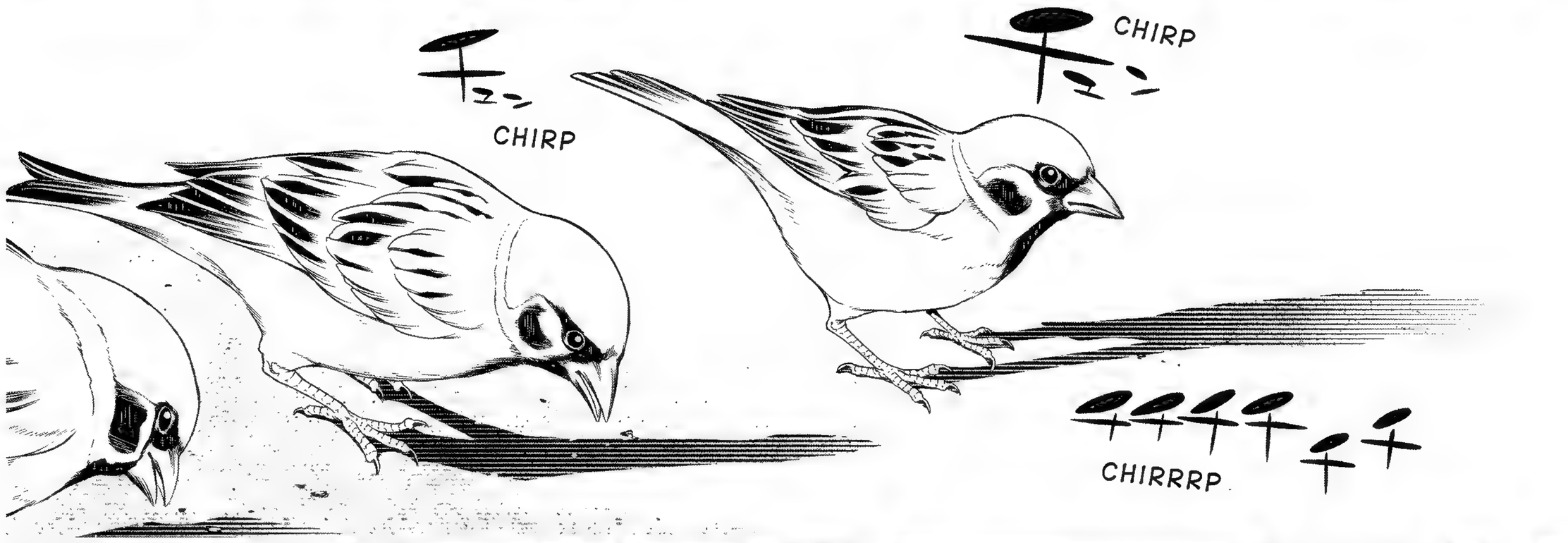
GOD !!

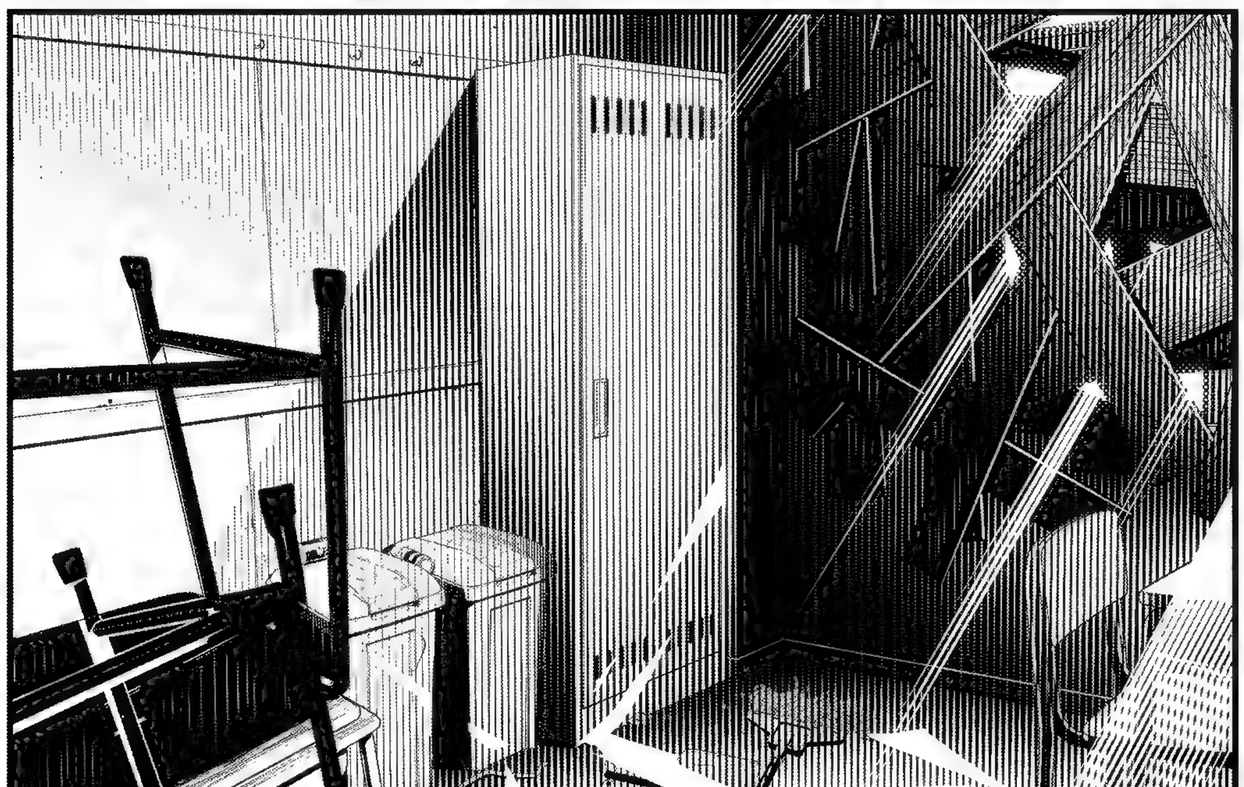
SALVA-TION!!

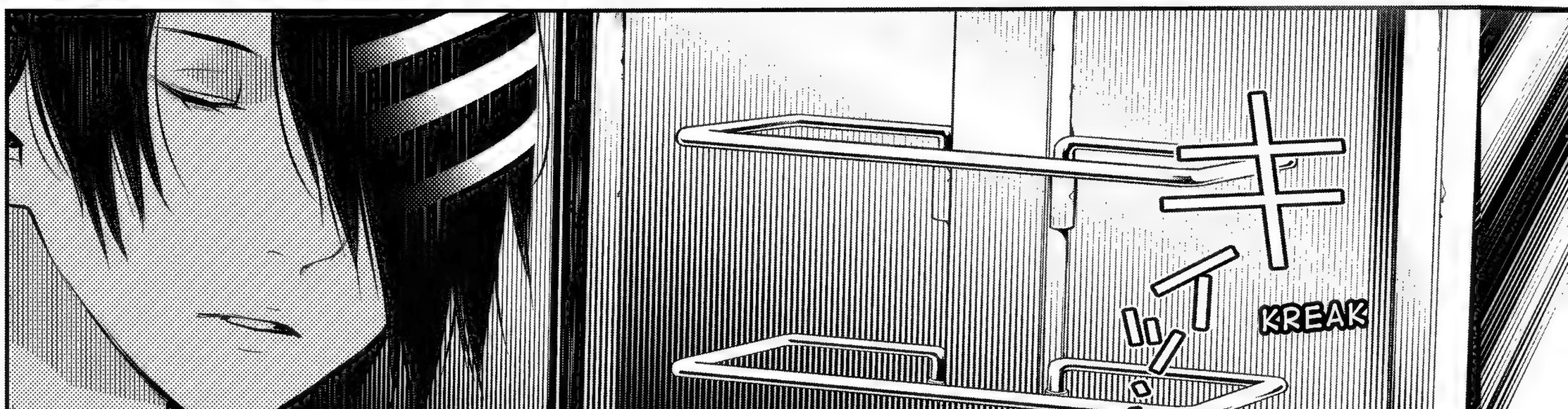
SE KE

ТІК


急カーブ
歩行者優先


CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRRRP




KREAK

Morning, Araragi.

Hey.

YAWN

...I can't begin to describe how sleepy I am...

What is it, Oshino ...?

You took forever to get back, after all.

She's sleeping.

What about li'l Heart-Under-Blade?

Yeah, yeah. Over this way.

Yup. Her legs.

Yeah, they were bound by a pretty rough spell.

Took me a little time.

Oh.

You mean that?

...Still.

Like the way he denies the existence of aberrations but still uses them.

Or how he kept going on about duty... Is that how you act if you think you're one of the good guys?

I don't really get Guillotine Cutter...

He was a villain to you, that's all.

Everyone has their own definition of good.

They even become mountain gods at times.

when feral pigs and boars are in the mountains, they're protected by wildlife laws.

For example,

LEGALLY RECOGNIZED PEST

But if they come down to a village, they're treated as pests and shot, right?

If they're raised and bred— they're nothing but food.

I think Guillotine Cutter understood that clearly.

That's how aberrations are—okay?

Their very essence seems to change depending on how you look at them, right?

From Hanekawa's perspective—

I wonder how she sees me...

In other words, from his perspective...

...I must have looked like nothing but a pest, but...

He's a professional, after all—

said Oshino.

Mission complete.

—Anyway, guess this means you've fetched all four of her limbs.

You took on three veteran vampire-hunting specialists and defeated all three in a row.

I'm impressed, I really am. You pulled it off—a mere high school student with no experience whatsoever.

Do I still look like...

...a human to her?

A little more empathy, please?

Congratulations, Araragi. I'm as happy for you as if this concerned yourself.

Heh ...

Well, yeah.

Well, it's not my problem, is it?

...

It's over—

It is ... right?

Hm?

...

Ah...

—No, this is fine.

It's all over now. With this—

I can return to being human.

...

...since you became a vampire, right?

It's been about two weeks now...

Oh, right. Araragi.

...felt hungry ...

...at all lately?

Haven't you...

BAKEMONOGATARI

Araragi. Haven't you...

...felt hungry at all lately?

Not at all.

No.

—Hm?

Maybe it's the vampiric immortality or something,

but I haven't had much of an appetite.

Well, I do think it's time you started to feel hungry.

Ha hah.

But you don't seem hangry at all to me.

...Why do you ask?

I should ?!

Do mind.

Oh, you know.

But— it just keeps bugging me.

I understand it in theory...

...feel doubtful, Oshino ...

I still...

...

Why was I...

...able to beat them?

But... I just don't get it.

If it was a fluke— that's fine, too.

If I was just lucky— I could accept that.

It just seemed strange.

"Doubt" didn't exactly cover it.

But for some reason,

I felt like Oshino knew the answer.

Ones so talented they were able to rip Kiss-Shot's limbs from her when she was still the king of aberrations.

We're talking about profes-sionals.

To give you a sense of scale, it'd be...

Well.

Like this.

I'm—nothing more than her thrall, and a fledgling one at that—right?

But... if that was the case...

...then the story doesn't add up.

I just couldn't understand...

...why Kiss-Shot lost.

If Kiss-Shot was at full-power ...

those three would be no match for her even if they all attacked her at once.

You've got good intuition, Araragi.

Keep at it, and you might turn out to be quite the expert.

Ha hah.

SPLAT

TOSS

ROLL

"Splat"...?

...?!

ACK

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

TH-THMP

As you can see.

...

heart.

Heart-Under-Blade's ...

So, yeah...

...it's understandable that she got her limbs torn off.

She faced those three without that heart right there.

If Heart-Under-Blade wasn't in top form, then it all *adds up*, right?

Of course it is!!

I think I was under the weather, too.

—And wait,

I guess she did say something like that...

Even I understood that the source of a vampire's power...

...was her blood. Without a heart, the most vital element in the delivery of that blood—

it was more surprising that all she did was lose her limbs.

Prob-ably not.

She thinks it really was her not feeling her best.

She hasn't noticed... has she?

...

The thought that the rug had been pulled out from under her never crossed her mind.

She's too confident.

TWITCH

TWITCH

TWITCH

So... that's how it was.

Still, this?

How do you snatch something like this from someone without them noticing?

Sheesh.

I can see how he was able to become archbishop at his age...

but I guess he was actually pretty impressive.

I thought that guy was playing dirty by taking a hostage...

Huh?

It wasn't Guillotine Cutter who took her heart.

No, no, Araragi.

Nope, wrong again.

What do you mean? So did the other two steal it and give it to Guillo for safekeeping?

Then who was it?

Me.

"I was wandering the streets at night and happened across an incredibly powerful vampire, so I plucked out her heart."

Oshino then gave me a long speech.

In short, he said...

I'm not saying it was easy or anything.

Doing it so she wouldn't notice was especially hard to pull off.

In fact, it was back-breaking work.

...

"Because that's my job."

"I did it in order to balance things."

—That's the gist of it.

...But, what exactly...

I mean, how did he...?

Cr...

...ap...

I still didn't know how...

...it would all shake out.

The odds were no greater and no less than fifty-fifty.

But you know ...

I finally under-stood now.

This guy, Oshino—it was because he had skills on that level...

...that he was able to act as a negotiator—as a balancer between me and those three.

And it just so happened ...

...that the dice happened to fall in favor of those three.

That's all.

...as a hideout to Kiss-Shot...

...what I think it is?

...is the reason you offered this place...

...

Then...

...

A way to atone— or...

...something like that?

It just happened to work out this way.

I haven't committed any sins to atone for.

You guys had good luck, in other words.

AND YOU JUST SO HAPPENED TO PASS BY AND SAVE ME WHEN THOSE THREE ATTACKED ME?!

SO YOU JUST SO HAPPENED TO CROSS PATHS WITH KISS-SHOT AS SHE DRAGGED ME AROUND,

YOU'RE SAYING IT WAS ALL LUCK?!

—How could that possibly be true?!

I guess that's how it would work...

TWITCH

TWITCH

...huh.

—But had he really planned all of this out from the start?!

There didn't seem to be any rhyme or reason to when he took the stage.

Kiss-Shot won't be able to return to her full form without it, right?

Anyway, give her back that heart.

?!

Which is why...

TH-THMP

TWITCH

Araragi.

Your involvement in all of this was very un-expected to me.

TH-THMP

...number four.

I'm...

I need to restore the balance here.

Normally— my job would be over by the time I took her heart. But—

you and Kiss-Shot... your advantage would still be too big in that case.

...fight Oshino ...?!

I have to...

I...

...

Huh ...?

KRAKL

BSSHT

Let's
do
this.

DRIP

DRIP

ZSSSHH

K-

Kiss-Shot's —

heart !

...!

It'll be on the line.

Yep. ♡

You're saying ...

...I need to fight you...

... Oshino ?!

Shit.

ZZST

N-Now what ...?

ZZST

He...He never said anything about this.

Not about this twist...

OR.

JOLT

BA-
KRAKK

—You were going to—
Araragi.

AAAH

...

Going to...?!

...

TWITCH

If you're going to talk about atone-ment—

Well, yeah.

I guess this is atone-ment.

So...consider this reparations.

TOSS

What happened with Missy Class President—
I really am sorry about that. That was a little too unexpected by my standards.

My way of showing you just how sincere I am.

ROLL

SPLAT

SPLAT

I really slipped up there...

That was so bad you could hold every Oshino who lives in Japan accountable for it.

DON'T DRAG EVERY OSHINO LIVING IN JAPAN INTO YOUR OWN MISTAKE!!

...

I guess they share some letters in common.

I don't really see much care in that at all.

I guess he knows he comes across that way without having to be told as much...

And wait, I don't remember ever calling him a slob...

HAHAHAHAHA

はっはっはっはっはっは

YOU CONSTANTLY CALLED ME "A SLOB," BUT I WAS GOING TO END UP BEING THE "LAST BOSS"!

ALL MY CAREFUL FORE-SHADOWING GONE TO WASTE!!

SMOLDER
SMOLDER

?!!

You doin' all right there?

But never mind all that, Araragi.

Your healing is powerful enough that you won't die immediately in direct sunlight, right?

Good thing it's raining.

Well.

BHAA-AAAAHT!

SAY THAT KIND OF THING TO ME AFTER YOU'VE HAD YOUR BODY EVAPORATE ONCE!!

What was?

What happened with Missy Class President.

—That really was a rare case.

Well.

There's something a little off about that girl.

You can't explain her actions through goodness alone—

To be completely frank with you—I find that degree of kindness creepy.

Normally, humans run from aberrations.

Ara-ragi.

You've started to feel that way, too, right?

...

It's like she's forcing herself to be a good person.

In any case, you've recovered all of Heart-Under-Blade's lost parts.

Allow me to congratulate you once more.

HA HAH—

Well.

Could you... not put it that way?

...

All right, Araragi.

Just be careful.

Don't do anything rash again after you turn back into a human.

If someone fixed this whole situation, then I probably belong to the fixed side.

I don't really feel like I collected them. It's more like they collected themselves.

I may have prepared situations, but I didn't preordain them.

Come on, now—do you still suspect that I fixed this whole situation?

That's what Oshino said.

I don't see it that way, though.

...Hey, don't make it sound like you're done with this place.

...?!

I am done.

My work here is over.

...What?

Con-sider it paid 'n done.

About your two million yen and Missy Class President's three million yen.

Oh, Ara-ragi. That's right.

...Eh, guess it's fine.

I feel like I'm giving you a little too sweet a deal, but...

Canceled out with my mistake.

That's what my real specialty is supposed to be—

I want to be done with the kind of stuff that happened today. It's not my style.

It really isn't...

I still plan on hanging around this area a little longer...

Look into tales of aberrations that have been handed down in this town and teach me about them.

If you can't stop yourself from feeling indebted to me...

—Yeah, that'll work.

Lowii
upper pitcher

As if I would.

Feel indebted to you? ...Yeah, right.

Of course— you saved me from it, too.

You're clearly part of the reason I got into this whole mess.

...

...Seriously?

"You just went and saved yourself."

Okay.

ふぅっ
SIGH

...had been re-solved.

Every-thing...

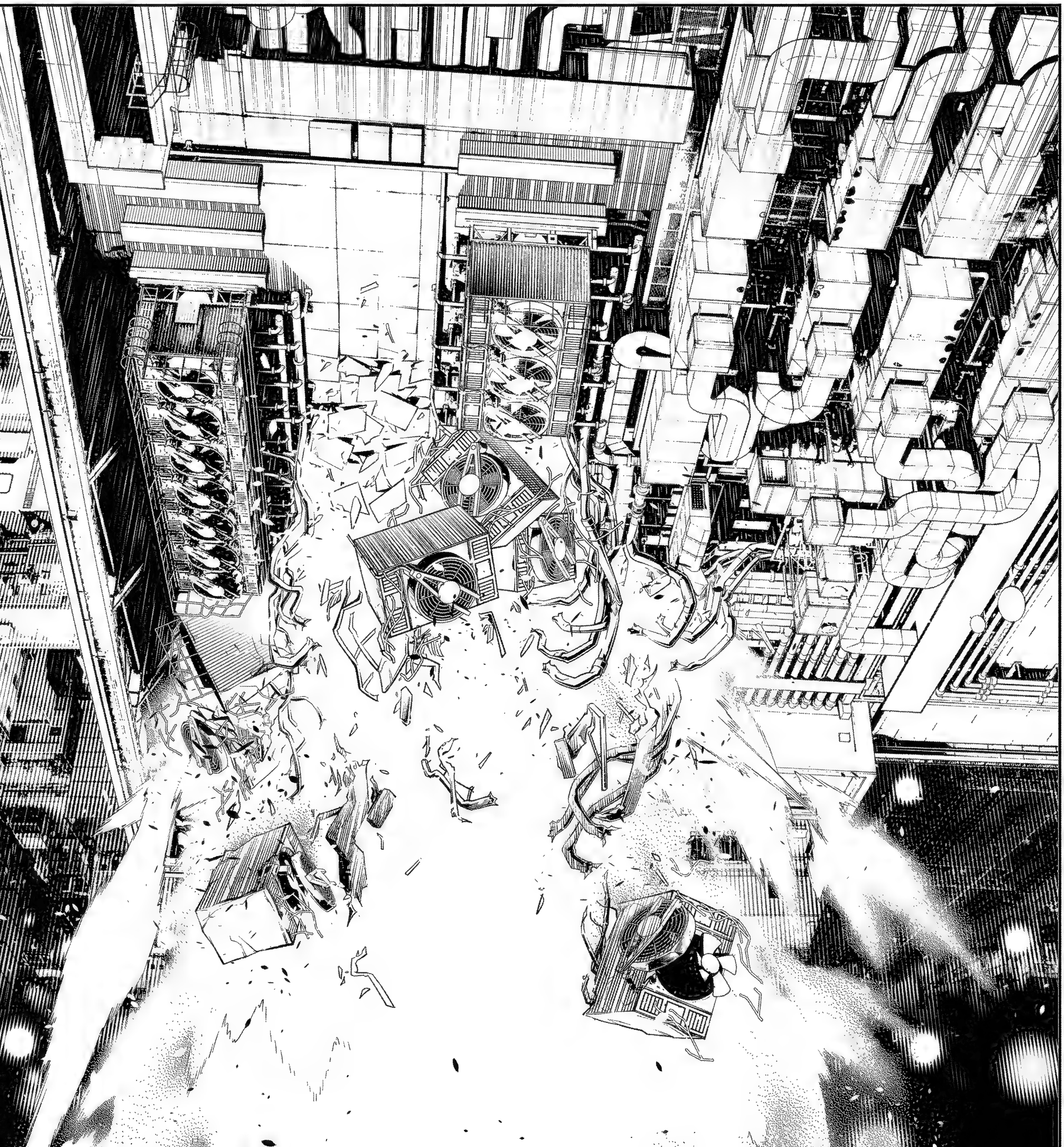
Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade could be fully restored.

...the "aberra-tion slayer" —

...the iron-blooded, hot-blooded, yet cold-blooded vampire...

And now, at last—

at long last...

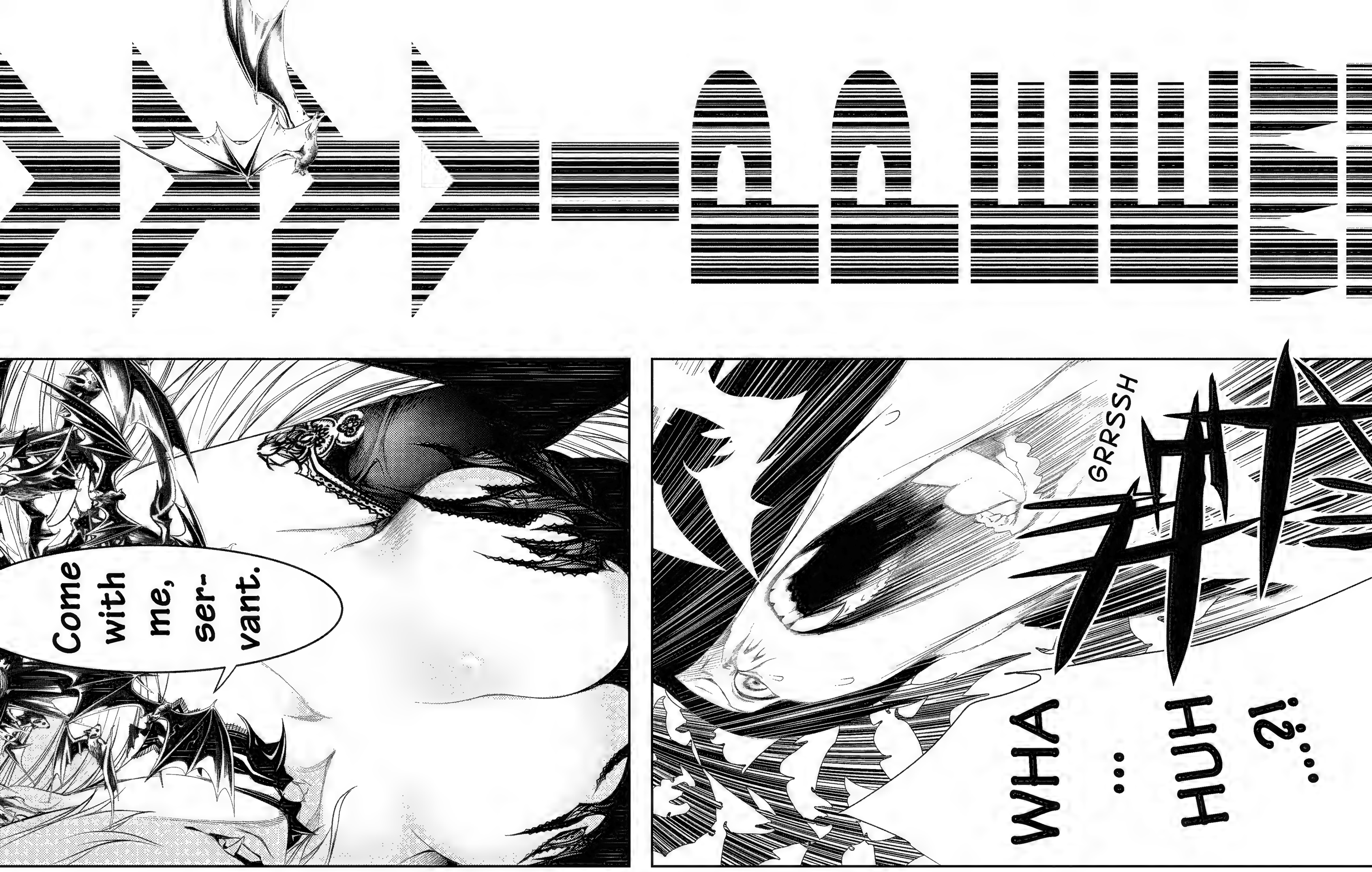


ZWOOSH

Y

Y

yyyy!


Come with me, ser- vant.
WHA
HUH ...
i?...
GRRSSH

GWOOSH

Aaa-
haha-
ha

ha

ha

ha

ha

ZSSSHT

ha

ha

ha

ha

Continued in Volume 13

Next Volume Preview
BAKEMONOGATARI 13
Koyomi has defeated the vampire hunters...
...and successfully restored Kiss-Shot to her full powers.
THMP
All that is left is for him to return to being human—or so it seemed.
Aye
ee
ee
Koyomi Vamp weeps.
CHATTER
COMING FEBRUARY 2022!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 12

Kodansha Digital Edition

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